consultation with all the social partners keeping all the relevant factors in view. The Central Board for Workers Education also conducts many programmes to inculcate a sense of maintaining harmonious industrial relations.

(c) The workers are entitled to have share in the profit through bonus as well as through collective bargaining.

Relief and Incentives to SSIs

*60. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Finance Ministry has given some relief and incentives to small scale sector units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent these incentives would help to improve the functioning of small scale units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs have given various fiscal and financial relief and incentives to the small acale sector. Major financial incentives exist in the form of lending to small scale industries coming under priority sector lending programme of banks, setting up of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) an exclusive bank for SSI refinancing, setting up of 395 specialised bank branches, Credit Guarantee Scheme for Loans without collateral upto Rs. 25 lakh and other credit support in the form of Composite Loan Scheme, National Equity Fund Scheme, directive to banks for collateral free loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs or upto Rs. 15 lakhs in certain deserving cases. The fiscal incentive to the small scale sector exists in the form of SSI General Excise Exemption Scheme on turnover upto Rs. 100 lakhs, excise exemption on production of branded goods for other units in rural areas and certain direct tax benefits.

(c) The above reliefs and incentives will help in strengthening the SSI sector to engance its competitiveness by providing level playing field and encouraging new and efficient technology.